

STEROIDOGENIC FACTOR-1 PROTEIN VARIANTS
AND METHODS OF MAKING SAME

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides a properly
5 folded steroidogenic factor-1 (SF-1)-like receptor
variant, or active fragment thereof, which has an amino
acid sequence that encodes a SF-1-like receptor or an
active fragment thereof and that lacks at least one
naturally occurring cysteine residue within the
10 ligand-binding domain of the receptor. Such a properly
folded SF-1 receptor variant or active fragment thereof
can exhibit increased monomer stability as compared to
analogous receptor retaining the cysteine residues
lacking in the variant. In one embodiment, at least one
15 naturally occurring cysteine residue within the
ligand-binding domain of the SF-1-like receptor is
substituted with a non-cysteine residue such as serine or
threonine.